

Message Text

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23 45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 DODE-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7812

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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BRUSSELS FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FR NATO

SUBJECT: FRANCE AND NATO: FRENCH GOVERNMENT ISSUES

DENIAL OF ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY ON FRANCE'S

JOINING NATO DIRECTORATE

REF: PARIS 36417

1. AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING DECEMBER 9 PRESIDENCY ISSUED

FORMAL DENIAL OF WIRE SERVICE REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

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QUOTING INFORMED USG SOURCES THAT FRANCE WILL INTEGRATE

NATO'S MILITARY STRUCTURE THROUGH MECHANISM OF FOUR-
POWER DIRECTORATE (REFTEL). TEXT OF AGENCE FRANCE PRESS
STORY FOLLOWS:

BEGIN AFP TEXT

THE ELYSEE HAS CATEGORICALLY DENIED PRESS AGENCY
REPORTS QUOTING INFORMED WASHINGTON SOURCES WHO CLAIM
THAT FRANCE MIGHT JOIN A NATO DIRECTORATE. ACCORDING
TO THE ELYSEE, FRENCH MILITARY POLICY IS A CONTINUITY
OF THE POLICY DEFINED BY GENERAL DEGAULLE 18 YEARS AGO.
THE ELYSEE REAFFIRMS FRANCE'S POLICY IN THREE POINTS:

-- FRENCH MILITARY POLICY IS WELL KNOWN AND HAS
BEEN REAFFIRMED RECENTLY BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE
MINISTER OF DEFENSE.

-- THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS ABSOLUTELY NO KNOWL-
EDGE OF ANY OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE REPORT
OF AN INTERNATIONAL PRESS AGENCY WITH RESPECT TO INITIA-
TIVES TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES ON THIS SUBJECT.

-- MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DE GUIRINGAUD UTI-
LIZED THE OCCASION OF THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL TO REITERATE
BOTH THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES WHICH GUIDE FRENCH
RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE MILITARY
STRUCTURE. THESE PRINCIPLES ARE WELL KNOWN. THEY ARE
THE PRINCIPLES OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE. AS FAR AS
PRACTICES ARE CONCERNED, FRANCE CONDUCTS ABSOLUTELY NO
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ALLIANCE INTEGRATED STRUCTURES.

END TEXT

2. ASSOCIATED PRESS DESPATCH REPORTED REFTEL AS WELL
AS ELYSEE DENIAL ARE GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE ON FRONT
PAGE OF LE MONDE THURSDAY AFTERNOON (ISSUED DATED
DECEMBER 10). IN ADDITION TO REPEAT OF DENIAL, LE
MONDE SAYS: "AUTHORITATIVE FRENCH SOURCES SAY THAT THE
ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY CAME AT A PARTICULARLY UNFORTU-
NATE TIME ON THE EVE OF AN ATLANTIC COUNCIL MEETING TO
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THE EXTENT THAT IT SOWS DISCORD AMONG EUROPEANS. THE
SAME SOURCES DENY THAT FRANCE HAS DECIDED TO JOIN THE
UNITED STATES AND THE UK IN COORDINATING NUCLEAR TARGET-
ING AS INDICATED IN THE AP STORY. THE ELYSEE PROFESSES
COMPLETE IGNORANCE ABOUT THE ALLEGED VISIT TO PARIS OF
A HIGH-RANKING AMERICAN CIVIL SERVANT WITH THE ALLEGED
MISSION OF PREPARING A REPORT ON THIS PROBLEM. THE
ELYSEE INSISTS THAT FRENCH DEFENSE POLICY HAS BEEN

CLEARLY DEFINED AND THERE IS NO QUESTION OF CHANGING
IT."

3. COMMENT: GOF DENIAL IS BIGGER THAN THE ORIGINAL
STORY, BUT ELYSEE FELT IT HAD TO NIP THIS ONE IN THE
BUD BEFORE IT BALLOONS INTO ANOTHER GENERAL HAIG AFFAIR.
SENIOR GOF OFFICIALS ARE VERY ANNOYED WITH SOURCE OF AP
STORY.
RUSH

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